



# Late Backup

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Robert D. Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
**DATE:** June 11, 2009  
**RE:** Item #12, SWS Master Plan RCA

The purpose of this memo is to advise you of the Solid Waste Advisory Commission's discussion and review of the Solid Waste Services Master Plan. The Commission discussed and attempted to take action on the Master Plan RCA with five members present; one recusal, and one absent, leaving four voting members.

Two resolutions were considered. The first resolution recommended that Council postpone action and revisit the solicitation process. However, that motion failed due to a lack of a second. The second resolution recommended that Council limit the contract amount to a maximum of \$1.2 million and require that staff seek additional public input to the Master Plan RFQ process. Staff from Contract and Land Management advised that changing the solicitation process in substantive ways would expose the City to legal risk. This motion failed because it required all four voting commissioners to vote in favor of the resolution.

Although extensive discussion occurred regarding the Solid Waste Master Plan, the Commission could not come to an agreement as to its recommendation to Council.

**CITY OF AUSTIN**

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**SOLID WASTE SERVICES MASTER PLAN RCA RESOLUTION**

June 10, 2009

VOTE: 3-1-1

Motion made by: Rick Cofer

Seconded by: JD Porter

Commissioners Consenting: Gerry Acuna, Tracy Sosa

Commissioners Dissenting: JD Porter

Commissioners Abstaining: Jason Pittman

Commissioners Absent: None

Whereas, the Solid Waste Services Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan (ISWMMP) is based on the *Zero Waste Strategic Plan* whose target date for completion of implementation is 2040, making this a long term plan with far reaching consequences, and

Whereas, careful decision making and significant public and stakeholder input at the beginning is vital to insuring that the optimal path to the goal of Zero Waste is well defined, and

Whereas, the significantly minimal differences between the rankings of the contending consulting firms indicates a more diverse set of inquires may have resulted in greater and more definitive differences in scores, and

Whereas, both the selection of a new SWS Director and the swearing in of a new City Council are still pending, possibly prolonging the date when a final decision on this issue needs to be made and allowing for a more thorough selection process, and

Whereas, the RFQ process used to select the consultant currently recommended did not sufficiently involved the Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC) or community input in the development of the ranking matrix used, as repeatedly requested by SWAC, and

Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that

SWAC recommends Council execute the professional services agreement for planning services related to the ISWMMP, but limit the agreement to a maximum cost of 1.2 million and solicit public input in the selection of the professional service provider.